

# National Cannery Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information  
Letter



For N. C. A.  
Members

Membership Letter No. 108.

April 18, 1925.

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## Board of Directors to Meet May 26.

The regular semiannual meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Cannery Association will be held in the Washington office, Tuesday, May 26. A number of important matters are to come before this meeting.

## Assuring Better Raw Products for Cannerys.

The quality of the canner's output is determined in large measure by the quality of the raw products he receives from his growers, and any means of insuring that only satisfactory materials are delivered to the canneries is certain to be of great assistance in maintaining a high standard of quality in canned foods.

While it is the desire of growers to deliver, and of canners to receive, only sound, ripe fruit and vegetables, still canners are at times placed in an embarrassing position by the delivery of unfit raw products at their canneries. The canner does not want to lose the good will of his growers by rejecting such materials, but if he accepts them there is a strong inducement to use them, thus endangering his own business reputation and creating a condition that is a detriment to the entire industry.

In view of these facts, canners will be greatly interested in the co-operation offered to Michigan canners by the Department of Agriculture of that state, to assure that fruits and vegetables delivered to the canning plants will be of the proper character.

Under a law adopted by the Michigan legislature in 1919 all the canning factories are placed under state license and are subject to frequent inspection. The sanitary requirements and character of raw products used are definitely prescribed. The Michigan general laws prohibit the sale, or offering for



sale, of any food products that are adulterated, decomposed, mouldy, tainted, or otherwise unwholesome. This applies to fruits and vegetables the same as to canned foods, etc.

The Michigan Bureau of Foods and Standards has offered, with the cooperation of canners, to bring the requirements of these laws to the attention of the growers of canners' crops, likewise the fact that the Bureau is required, and expects, to enforce the requirements regarding raw materials, as well as those governing the canners' finished products.

#### National Wholesale Grocers Association Convention.

The annual convention of the National Wholesale Grocers Association will be held on June 9-11, at the West Baden Springs Hotel, West Baden, Indiana. An interesting program is being arranged, and reduced railroad fares on the certificate plan will be available to all those attending the meeting.

#### Canvass For Canned Foods Week Fund.

There has been a gratifying response to the work being conducted for contributions to the Canned Foods Week fund, and while at the present time no predictions can be made as to the final outcome of the canvass, the results thus far are quite encouraging. Various state associations are showing great interest in reaching their members, and through this plan it is expected that canners everywhere in the country will be given an opportunity to pledge their financial support for this important work.

#### Army Asks For Bids on Canned Foods.

The Army is advertising for bids on baked beans, fish, vegetables, fruits, meats, jellies, marmalades, olives, pickles, pimientos, sirup, and soups, under Circular Proposal 25-81-subs., bids to be opened May 4.

Under Circular No. 25-82-subs., the Army is also asking bids on evaporated milk, asparagus, mushrooms, green olives, oysters, pears, pimientos, tomato sauce, shrimp, tomato soup and clam chowder, these bids to be opened May 11.

Copies of these circulars can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, War Department, Washington.

#### Bulletin on Meat Products in Export Trade.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has just issued a 60-page pamphlet dealing with the methods employed in the sale of meats and meat products in foreign countries. This is the fourteenth in the Bureau's series on world trade in agricultural products. In the appendix of the bulletin are given the documents used in the meat export trade, such as contracts, export declarations, inspection certificates, etc. Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

#### Trend of Wholesale Prices.

While wholesale prices of many commodities averaged lower in March than in February, the general level was slightly higher, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Among foods, advances in fresh and cured meats, lard, butter, and fruits offset declines in eggs and flour, resulting in a net increase



of 1-1/4 per cent for the group. Comparing prices in March with those of a year ago, as measured by changes in the index numbers, the general level increased approximately 7-1/2 per cent. The greatest increase is shown for farm products, in which prices were 17-1/2 per cent higher than in March, 1924. Foods averaged 12-3/4 per cent higher, miscellaneous commodities 11 per cent higher, and chemicals and drugs 3-1/3 per cent higher. In all other groups prices averaged lower than a year ago, ranging from less than one-half of 1 per cent in the case of cloths and clothing to approximately 7 per cent in the case of metals and metal products.

#### Imports of Canned Foods.

In a review of the United States import trade in canned foods, which appeared in the April 13 issue of Commerce Reports, it is revealed that as compared with 1923 the imports of canned meats in 1924 increased 78%, condensed milk 55%, crab meat 17%, sardines 75%, peas 12%, and tomatoes 70%. At the same time imports of evaporated milk decreased 42% and lobsters 33%. Canned meats, mainly beef, come from Uruguay and Argentina and, it is stated, are probably the products of branch American factories; Japan supplies crab meat; canned fish, largely sardines and anchovies, come from Norway, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy; Canada furnishes some canned vegetables. Pineapple is the most important canned fruit import, coming from Straits Settlements and British South Africa.

#### Making a Survey of Food Buying.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has undertaken a house-to-house survey in sixteen cities to determine the meat-buying habits of consumers, kinds of meat purchased, quantity consumed, purchasing methods, and influence of advertising in increasing consumption. Preliminary data from five cities indicate that beef is preferred by three out of five families, pork being second choice. Fish is the usual food when meat is not served. Use of foods other than meat by native white American families is prompted more often for variety in the diet than for any other reason. Seventy per cent of the housewives interviewed among these native white American groups indicated that they made purchases in person, and 61 per cent of the housewives bought from neighborhood markets. Two out of every five purchased from the nearest dealer. The cities to be included in the entire survey are Jacksonville, Washington, Baltimore, New Haven, Birmingham, Binghamton, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lincoln, Oklahoma City, New Orleans, Denver, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Grand Forks, and Fargo.

#### Conference on Fibre Containers.

A conference of shippers and users of fibre containers was held in New York City, April 17, under the auspices of the Division of Simplified Practices of the Department of Commerce. The meeting was of a preliminary nature, largely for the purpose of effecting some form of organization for conferences with representatives of the box manufactures, with a view to reducing the number of thicknesses of fibre board which are now in use. A representative of the Washington office of the National Cannery Association was present and will make a report of the proceedings.

#### Deduction of Bad Debts in Income Returns.

Under the provisions of the Revenue Act of 1918 a so-called bad debt is an allowable deduction from gross income only when ascertained to be worthless and charged off within the taxable period. The United States Board of Tax Appeals





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in a recent decision involving allowance for bad debts holds that the charging off of bad debts should, in the case of a taxpayer keeping regular books of account, be evidenced by such book entries as will effectually eliminate the amount of bad debt from the book assets of the taxpayer. These entries should be made prior to the closing of the accounts for the taxable period.

Dismisses Complaint Against Grocers Association.

The Federal Trade Commission has dismissed its complaint against the Colorado Wholesale Grocers Club, et al, of Denver, an association of wholesale grocers trading in Colorado and neighboring states. The complaint originally filed alleged that the respondent prevented competing dealers from selling groceries in the territory in which the respondent dealers did business.

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